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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,308	03/22/2004	Yoshinori Tsueda	016907-1646	9149
22428	7590	08/16/2006	EXAMINER	
FOLEY AND LARDNER LLP			REIS, TRAVIS M	
SUITE 500			ART UNIT	
3000 K STREET NW			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007			2859	

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/805,308

Applicant(s)

TSUEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Travis M. Reis

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2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,11,12 and 20-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,11,12 and 20-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, & 20-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta (U.S. Patent 6959158) in view of Sakagami (U.S. Patent 6882807).

With reference to claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 22, & 24-27, Ohta discloses a heat generator for use in a heating apparatus (100) comprising coil members (L1) arranged along an axis extending in a longitudinal direction of the heat generator; a central shaft (106) in which core materials are made from ferrite (col. 5 line 30) divided into a plurality of portions in a longitudinal direction (Figure 2); and an outer circumference is coated with a non-ferrous metal conductor layer (109), the central shaft being provided to extend along the axis (Figure 1), the core materials being arranged in position corresponding to gaps between the coil members (Figure 2); said conductor layer formed to be a predetermined thickness at a circumference of an elastic body (108); said elastic body formed to be a predetermined thickness at a circumference of the conductor layer, magnetic field generators (90) for generating heat; & a pressure member (10) which is provided along central shaft of the heat generator (Figure 8).

Ohta does not disclose an elastic body formed to be a predetermined thickness at a circumference of the central shaft.

Sakagami discloses a fixing device which contains a roller (Figure 9A) with a central shaft (211) and two elastic bodies (212, 215) formed to be predetermined thicknesses at circumferences of the central shaft & the conductor layer (214). Therefore, it would have been

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obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add a first elastic layer taught by Sakagami to the central shaft disclosed by Ohta in order to provide thermal insulation to the shaft and prevent thermal damage.

With reference to claims 20, 21, & 23, Ohta does not disclose coil members located outward of the second elastic body.

Sakagami discloses coil members (3) in a heating unit (6) located outwardly of the roller member (1) (Figure 1A). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add the heating unit disclosed by Sakagami outwardly of the elastic body disclosed by Ohta in order that a backup heating unit is in place in case of failure of the internal coil members fail.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 11, & 12 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis M. Reis whose telephone number is (571) 272-2249. The examiner can normally be reached on 8--5 M--F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Travis M Reis  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2859

Diego Gutierrez  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Tech Center 2800

tmr  
August 14, 2006

  
G. BRADLEY BENNETT  
PRIMARY EXAMINER